

Preliminary Amendment of US National Stage for International
Application PCT/EP00/09185 filed September 20, 2000

On page 3, after line 24, insert the heading:

A7

--DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓
Please cancel claims 1-5 without prejudice and enter
new claims 6-12:

A7

6. A process for manufacturing a shoe or shoe component, comprising the steps of bonding a surface of an upper and a surface of an outer sole with an adhesive, wherein at least one of the surfaces to be bonded is pretreated before application of the adhesive with a plasma jet under normal pressure.

7. The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet is linear.

8. The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprises die-cut ethylene/vinyl acetate foam.

9. The process of claim 8, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprising die-cut ethylene/vinyl acetate foam is pretreated solely with the plasma jet.

10. The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprises thermoplastic rubber that is optionally preheated before application of the adhesive.